



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Huron-Manistee National Forests  
Huron Shores Ranger Station  
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Oscoda, MI 48750

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Date: February 1, 2010  
File Code: 1950

Dear Interested Publics:

The Huron Shores Ranger Station is proposing resource management activities to meet management objectives established in the Huron-Manistee National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan (Forests' Plan). This letter is to inform you of the Pine River Snowbird Kirtland's Warbler Project (Snowbird KW Project). We invite you to help identify opportunities and concerns which relate specifically to this project proposal. The proposed activities include timber management, reforestation, wildlife habitat improvement, and fuels reduction.

### **Affected Area**

The Snowbird KW Project is about 931.5 acres and consists of three separate areas that are approximately 6 miles southeast of Glennie in Township 24 North, Range 6 East, Sections 11, 13, 14, and Township 24 North, Range 7 East, Section 7 of Iosco County, Michigan. These activities are proposed for implementation between the years 2011 and 2019. Maps of the proposals are enclosed.

### **Purpose and Need for the Proposal**

The Snowbird KW Project is located within Management Prescription Area 4.2 KW as designated by the Forests' Plan. General direction is to maintain and develop essential nesting habitat for the federally endangered Kirtland's warbler (KW), provide moderate to high volumes of softwood and hardwood timber products, diverse wildlife and fish habitats, a variety of recreation and visual opportunities, and the reduction of life threatening and property damaging wildfire potential.

The primary purpose of the Snowbird KW Project is to maintain and develop essential nesting habitat for the Kirtland's warbler in compliance with the Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Plan and Strategy for Kirtland's Warbler Habitat Management. The project will also decrease wildfire intensity by reducing hazardous fuels and reintroducing prescribed fire into the ecosystem.

Project proposals are designed to meet Forest Plan management objectives, to enhance the present condition of ecosystems, and to move the project area toward the desired future condition described in the Forests' Plan.

### **Proposed Actions include:**

- Regenerate approximately 717 acres to jack pine at densities required for KW nesting habitat through a combination of commercial timber harvest, site preparation, and tree planting. Commercial timber harvest would consist of clearcutting red pine and mixed jack pine/red pine/oak stands. Site preparation would consist of either mechanical methods, prescribed fire or a combination of methods to reduce slash and submerchantable trees and prepare the sites for tree planting.
- Site prep approximately 23.5 acres of submerchantable mixed bigtooth aspen and jack pine/oak with prescribed fire and/or non-commercial mechanical methods and regenerate to jack pine at densities required for KW nesting habitat.



- Thin approximately 191 acres of red pine and treat with prescribed fire, to increase the health and vigor of remaining trees while reducing wildfire potential on the landscape.

### **Comments on the Proposal**

We would like to know your thoughts concerning the project proposal. Any suggestions you have regarding the site-specific proposal will be considered as we identify issues, develop alternatives, and make recommendations for managing these sites. Please provide written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments before March 5, 2010.

Please include the following information when submitting comments:

- 1) Your name, address, telephone number, organization represented, and title;
- 2) Title of project – Snowbird KW Project;
- 3) Specific comments with supporting reasons for consideration in the analysis.

Please submit your written or hand-delivered comments, or any requests for further information to the Project Team Leader, Paul Thompson, USDA Forest Service, 5761 North Skeel Avenue, Oscoda, Michigan 48750, (989)-739-0728, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, or faxed to (989) 739-0347, or emailed to pdthompson at fs.fed.us (must be readable by plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf), Word (.doc) or Portable Document Format (.pdf) formats).

Sincerely,

*/s/Paul D. Thompson*

**PAUL D. THOMPSON**

**Project Team Leader**

Attachments: Proposed Action Map

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit such comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR 215. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27 (d), any person may request that a submission be withheld from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that confidentiality is granted in only very limited circumstances. The Forest Service will inform the requester of its decision regarding a request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the submission will be returned and the requester notified that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address.

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